



HENRY HAGG LAKE

N E W S B R I E F

Newsbrief #2

August 2002

BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Henry Hagg Lake RMP Proceeds

The Planning Process

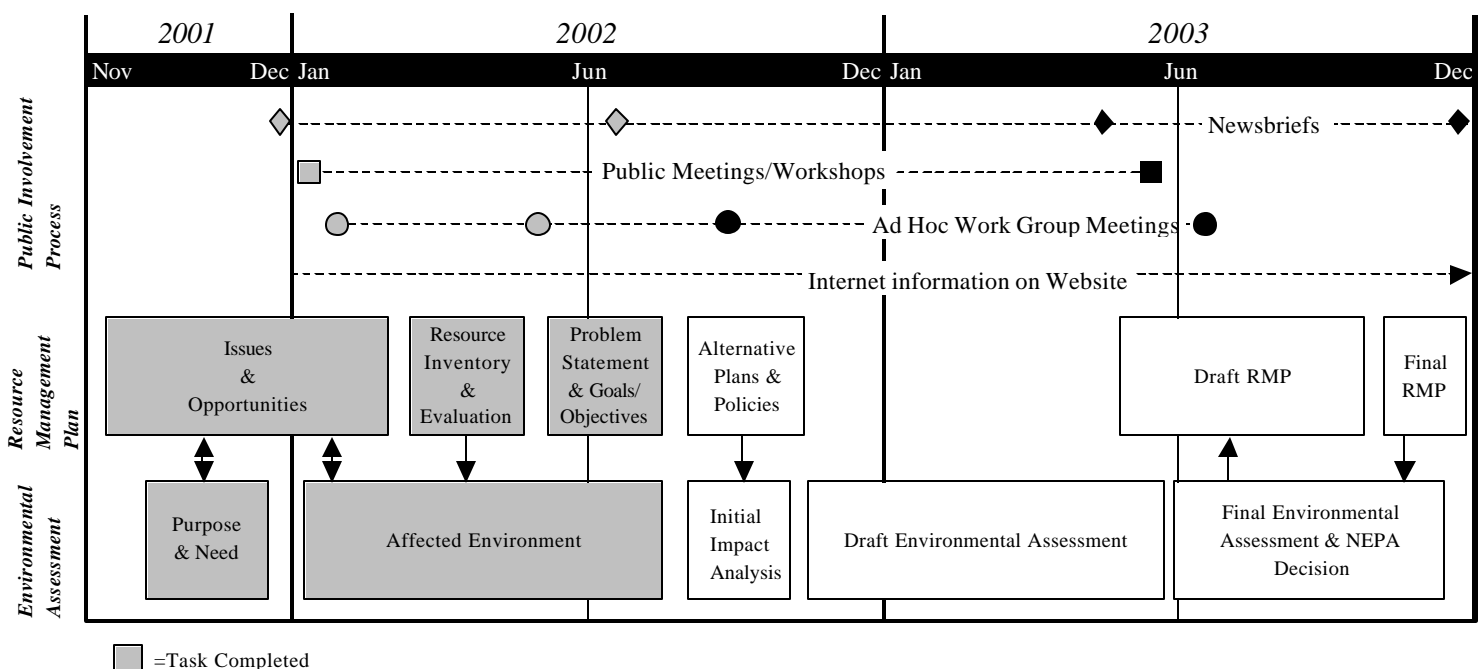
If you are new to our mailing list, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) began a 2-year planning process in late 2001 to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Henry Hagg Lake area. When completed, the RMP will provide direction for the future use, management, and development of Reclamation lands at Henry Hagg Lake and Scoggins Valley Park. Reclamation is developing the RMP in cooperation with Washington County (WACO), who manages Scoggins Valley Park. The RMP will help Reclamation and WACO balance the needs and interests of a diverse and wide-

spread public, while also protecting important natural and cultural resources.

The RMP will also include direction on various issues such as increasing use on Reclamation lands, coordinating with other agencies with regulatory jurisdiction in the area, and responsibilities for implementing the RMP. The RMP will be Reclamation's blueprint for the future use, management, and site development of Reclamation's lands over the next 10 years. As part of the process, Reclamation is also preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) document to analyze potential environmental impacts associated with plan implementation.

This is the second Newsbrief prepared as part of the Henry Hagg Lake RMP process. This issue summarizes the overall planning process, describes public input received to date, introduces the Ad Hoc Work Group created for this project, and summarizes the preliminary resource inventory conducted for the RMP.

Schedule and Workplan



Opportunities for Public Involvement

To develop an effective and realistic management tool, Reclamation is incorporating input from a broad spectrum of public interests. Newsbriefs (like this one), public meetings/workshops, and an Ad Hoc Work Group are the main methods to provide the public with technical information on natural resources and human uses/activities in the Henry Hagg Lake study area. They also provide avenues for you to voice your concerns and opinions on important issues to address during the planning process. The Ad Hoc Work Group is an important avenue for public input and representation. The group is composed of agency and interest group representatives and citizens covering an array of public interests and concerns. More information about this Work Group is provided on page 4 of this Newsbrief.

Newsbrief No. 1 was mailed in December 2001, followed by the first public meeting/workshop held in Hillsboro, Oregon on January 17, 2002. Two more Newsbriefs will follow this one (No. 2), keeping you informed of progress on the RMP. One more public meeting/workshop will also be held in late spring 2003, to gather comments on the Draft EA. The Ad Hoc Work Group has met twice already and will meet two more times over the course of the planning process.

The schedule on page 1 illustrates the overall 2½-year planning process and identifies the milestones for public involvement. The Draft EA will be available for public review in summer 2003. The Final RMP is scheduled to be completed in the late fall/early winter of 2003.

Public Information Received to Date

Newsbrief No. 1 and the first public meeting/workshop were opportunities for the public to provide initial input on the development of the RMP. As Reclamation had just begun the planning process for the RMP, these early public involvement opportunities were important in defining the plan's focus and direction. Newsbrief No. 1 was sent to more than 350 individuals and included a Mail-in Response Form to gather information from residents and visitors – where respondents live, their primary reason(s) for visiting the study area, what specific activities they participate in and where, what issues they see as the most important, and suggestions for membership on the Ad Hoc Work Group.



Looking eastward from an elk meadow on the northwest side of Henry Hagg Lake

In addition to presenting information on the planning process and management of Henry Hagg Lake and Scoggins Valley Park in general,

Reclamation organized the public meeting/workshop to invite public input. Individuals who attended were invited to fill out a worksheet, which asked similar questions to those presented in the Mail-in Response Form

from Newsbrief No. 1. Participants at the meeting also broke into small work groups to discuss issues and opportunities that the RMP should address. The issues were ranked by the small groups, and those receiving the highest scores were combined into a summary list of priority issues. About 15 completed Response Forms were mailed back to Reclamation, and approximately 25 people came to the public meeting.

The list on page 3 summarizes public input from both the Mail-in Response Form and the public meeting/workshop. While this information is not intended to be a formal statistical sampling, it does provide the Planning Team with valuable input regarding important values and activities at Henry Hagg Lake and Scoggins Valley Park. This summary table lists issues raised by the majority of people during this initial step in the planning process. Numerous other issues were noted in fewer numbers at the public meetings or in the Mail-in Response Form. Although these other issues are not listed here, all issues raised are being addressed by the Planning Team and the Ad Hoc Work Group and will be evaluated as part of the planning effort.

**Public
Information
Received
to Date
(continued)**

Category	Issue
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting important species such as elk and bald eagles • Potential conflicts between human use and wildlife needs • Water quality and use issues • Noxious weed control • Fire hazards • Waterfowl habitat • Protecting threatened and endangered species
Land Use and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security related to potential camping • Controlling litter • Road conditions • Managing hunting and firearms • Use of the County Road • Eliminating trespassing in the area
General & Administrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding of RMP programs and facilities • Adequacy of current concession opportunities or services • Length of the season of use
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a better beach area • Motor oil pollution on the reservoir • Need for facilities for bank and boat fishing • Organizing, managing, and coordinating special events • Providing facilities for people with disabilities

**Ad Hoc Work
Group**

Reclamation has organized an Ad Hoc Work Group to include representatives from key interest groups, citizens, and agencies with an interest in the future management and use of the reservoir. This volunteer group is meeting with the Planning Team on a regular basis over the course of the project, providing valuable input on issues identification, the development of goals and objectives, policy and plan options, alternative management plans, and the final proposed plan. This group is also intended to act as your representatives, voicing any specific concerns you may have.

To date, the Work Group has held its first two meetings to become familiar with other members of the Work Group, the planning process, the area's natural resources, and the uses/activities occurring on study area lands. The second meeting included a field visit to various sites around the reservoir to become more familiar with many of the issues. The Work Group presented their issues of concern and was briefed on the findings from all of the public input on issues, opportunities, and preferred activities. Members of the Ad Hoc Work Group are listed on page 4.



AHWG tour in late May.



Anglers enjoy springtime fishing at Sain Creek Picnic Area.

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♦ Paul Billick Coast Guard Auxiliary 10785 Tonquin Loop Sherwood, OR 97140 503-692-1789	♦ Chuck Kingston Joint Water Commission Water Treatment Plant 123 West Main Street Hillsboro, OR 97123 503-615-6672	♦ Josh Smith Gaston Fire Department 102 E. Main Street Gaston, OR 97119 503-985-7575
♦ Dick Caldwell ODFW 17330 SE Evelyn Street Clackamas, OR 97015 503-657-2000 ext.235	♦ Kathi Larson USFWS 2600 SE 98th Ave, Suite 100 Portland, OR 97266 503-231-6179	♦ Mark Sytsma Center for Lakes & Reservoirs Portland ST Univ, PO Box 751 Portland, OR 97207 503-725-3833
♦ George Dallas Adjacent Landowner 54079 SW Scoggins Valley Road Gaston, OR 97119 Beaverton, OR 97008 503-359-4455	♦ Gary Myers NW Outdoor Science School 5825 NE Ray Circle Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-614-1405	♦ Tom VanderPlaat Clean Water Services 155 N First Avenue Suite 270 Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-846-8758
♦ Scott Diamond OR Road Runners Club 6620 SW Hyland Way 503-594-1315	♦ Jim Olson Mazamas 18107 S.W. Sandra Lane Beaverton, OR 97006 503-614-1405	♦ Chris Wayland WACO Parks 111 SE Washington St MS42 Hillsboro, OR 97123-4055 503-359-5732
♦ Herb Doumitt OR Bass & Panfish Club 22520 NW Dogwood Street Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-844-8844	♦ Wally Otto Tualatin Valley Irrigation District 2330 Elm Street Forest Grove, OR 97116 503-357-5000	♦ Ray Wold Oregon Equestrian Trails 18500 N. W. Keller Road North Plains, OR 97133 503-647-2161
♦ Andy Duyck WACO Board of Commissioners 4200 NW Visitation Road Forest Grove, OR 97116 503-357-0123	♦ Steve Seely WACO Parks and Recreation 2330 Elm Street Forest Grove, OR 97116 503-992-8247	♦ Tom Wolf Trout Unlimited & Tualatin River Watershed Council 22875 NW Chestnut St Hillsboro, OR 97124 503-640-2123

Resource Inventory

One of the initial technical tasks of the RMP is to compile a complete and up-to-date inventory of the resources associated with the area, including recreation, land use, cultural, and natural resources. The resource inventory will serve as a foundation for decision-making in developing the plan, in particular by identifying opportunities and constraints associated with the various resources and then developing various alternative approaches to manage the reservoir and park. Some of the more important findings of the resource inventory are summarized below.

Natural Resources

- Major creeks feeding the reservoir include Tanner, Sain, and Scoggins Creeks.

- The most significant water-related issue is the large elevation drop between high and low pool, which exposes mudflats, particularly at the upper end of the reservoir.
- In general, it's a challenge to balance recreation needs (i.e., higher pool level) with irrigation needs.
- Irrigation use accounts for approximately 50% of the water resources from the reservoir.
- The reservoir is characterized by a high sediment load, primarily due to outside sources such as logging and landslides within the watershed.
- Erosion caused by wave action (recreation-related) and drawdown is negligible.
- Dam construction blocked salmonid migration (i.e., salmon and trout).

- The reservoir is now regularly stocked with a non-sustaining (i.e., put and take fishery) rainbow trout population.
- Perch, smallmouth bass, crappie, and bluegill were introduced illegally over the years, and these are now self-sustaining fisheries.
- The fishing season this year (2002) was increased from 6 months to 9 months, and will likely be continued for the foreseeable future.
- Reclamation lands are primarily second-growth Douglas fir conifer forests; a few open meadows have been maintained as elk meadows. The need for and future management of these elk meadows is one of the primary wildlife issues that needs to be addressed by the RMP.
- The park's relatively small land base offers a limited amount of wildlife habitat.
- There are no existing records of rare plants, but such species could be present in unsurveyed areas.
- The spread of noxious weeds is a concern, especially near recreation sites (e.g., Scot's broom at dry sites such as south-facing roadcuts).
- There is an active bald eagle nest in the Sain Creek drainage, outside the study area boundaries.

Land Use, Socioeconomics, and Access

- All lands and facilities in the park boundary are owned by Reclamation.
- Surrounding uses primarily include private industrial (i.e., timber) lands, as well as non-industrial uses (such as residential/small farms).

- Reclamation and WACO have a 50-year management agreement for the park, which expires in 2030.
- Reclamation and the Tualatin Valley Irrigation District also have a 50-year management agreement for water and dam operations, expiring in 2026.
- Reclamation has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for management of fishery resources at the reservoir.
- Easements provide access to several private properties through Reclamation lands.
- There are approximately 80 homeowners surrounding and adjacent to the park. Some of the homes are rental properties, but most are owner-occupied.
- The region is growing rapidly, with Washington County experiencing a 43% population increase from 1990 to 2000, the largest increase of any county in Oregon.

- A 1999 user survey indicated that the majority of park users (76%) are from Washington County, with the vast majority (97%) traveling less than 50 miles to access park facilities.

- One main perimeter road encircles the park and reservoir, with approximately 10 turnouts for local access.
- Most weekend vehicles are passenger vehicles, with some logging trucks.
- A multi-use trail encircles the reservoir, adjacent to the perimeter

road. This pathway is a 7-foot wide roadway shoulder and is primarily used for biking, running, and parking.

- There is also a "Lake Trail" located between the road and the lake shoreline; the Lake Trail is primarily native surface (i.e., dirt) and encircles most of the reservoir.
- The park recently received a Conservation Service Award for its accessible facilities (i.e., compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]).

Recreation

- The park is currently used solely for day use, with the primary activities being boating, fishing, picnicking, water-skiing, swimming, and relaxing.

- The park offers a variety of developed day use facilities for recreation use, including Recreation Area A (east and west), Scoggins Creek Picnic Area, Boat Ramp C (with a new ADA-accessible fishing pier), and the Elks Picnic Area.

- In 2000, an estimated 600,000 people visited the park; full pool conditions and the recently lengthened park and fishing season (from 6 to 9 months) will likely contribute to increased use levels.
- For boating, the reservoir is divided into two zones, separated by buoys; the southern zone has a 35 mph speed limit and can be used by personal water craft, water-skiers, and other higher boat speed activities; the northern zone is a no-wake zone and primarily used by anglers.
- Use levels of 700,000 people/year (as recorded in some past years) are quite high for a park and reservoir of this size.



Boat angling on the lake.



Mobile concession stand at Recreation Area "C".

The Problem Statement - Defining the Issues

Over the last few months, Reclamation has been focusing on what is referred to as the "Problem Statement" – a detailed and thorough understanding of the issues and opportunities that need to be addressed by the RMP. Starting with the public meetings/workshops and refined in meetings with the Ad Hoc Work Group, Reclamation recently drafted a Problem Statement that documents the key issues and opportunities of concern to the agencies and the public (including the Ad Hoc Work Group).

To address the full range of issues, the Problem Statement is organized according to five categories or resource topics: (1) Overall Concerns; (2) Natural and Cultural Resources; (3) Recreation and Other Uses; (4) Access, Parking, and Surrounding Uses; and (5) Management and Implementation. Detailed text has been developed for specific issues raised by the stakeholders and planning participants. The Problem Statement can be accessed on

Reclamation's world wide web site (see page 5) or requested directly from Reclamation (write to Carolyn Burpee-Stone, Reclamation's project manager, at the address below; or e-mail her at CSTONE@pn.usbr.gov).

Next Steps

Preparing the RMP and its associated EA is a multifaceted process with many of the elements occurring simultaneously. The next step is developing goals and objectives, which are being prepared to address resource-specific issues both for today and into the foreseeable future.

Concurrent with development of the Problem Statement and goals and objectives, Rec-

lamation has been completing the resource inventory of the study area. Biologists, planners, and resource specialists are examining existing data to analyze the current state of resources in the Henry Hagg Lake study area. The resource inventory will be documented in both the RMP and the associated EA now being prepared.

After the Planning Team completes the resource inventory, they will begin evaluating the varying levels at which the resources might accom-



Accessible fishing pier at Recreation Area "C".

modate different kinds of uses, levels of development, protection and conservation measures, and management programs and policies. These will be compiled into a set of draft alternatives that will be assessed in the EA. Newsbrief No. 3, scheduled for spring of 2003, will provide an update of Reclamation's progress on these portions of the planning process and announce the second public meeting.

Visit us on the World Wide Web – follow the links to the Henry Hagg Lake RMP
www.pn.usbr.gov



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